

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for programming recording of broadcast programs, comprising:

a recording ~~means-device~~ means-device for recording onto a predetermined medium broadcast programs included in input signals;

a recording programming ~~means-device~~ means-device for setting the recording start time and the recording end time of a given program in the broadcast programs, to program the given broadcast program as a first recording-scheduled program;

a program information acquisition ~~means-device~~ means-device for acquiring electronic program-guide information;

an extension keyword search ~~means-device~~ means-device for searching electronic program-guide information that relates to a given program as a secondly-recording-scheduled program to be broadcast on the same channel and the same date as and prior to the first program for a predetermined extension keyword indicating a program extension or /delay; and

a delay ~~means-device~~ means-device for delaying the recording end time of the first program in response to detection, ~~if-as a result of the search by the extension keyword search means-device, of a broadcast program in which the extension keyword has been found is present.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A recording programming apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising an extension time period setting ~~means-device~~ means-device for setting an extension time period for obtaining a recording end time to be delayed by the delay ~~means~~ device.

3. (Currently Amended) A recording programming apparatus as recited in claim 1, ~~characterized in that if wherein, in response to the detection of~~ a broadcast program in which the extension keyword has been found, ~~is present,~~ the extension keyword ~~means-device~~ means-device adds to the recording end time of the recording-scheduled program, a value obtained by multiplying by a predetermined extension time period the number of broadcast programs in which an extension keyword has been found.

4. (Currently Amended) A recording programming apparatus as recited in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the extension keyword is a phrase ~~of having at least~~ a predetermined number ~~or more of~~ consecutive characters.

5. (Currently Amended) A recording programming apparatus as recited in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the extension keyword is a combination of two or more predetermined non-consecutive phrases, and the spacing between phrases forming the combination falls within a predetermined number of characters.

6. (Currently Amended) A recording programming apparatus as recited in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the electronic program guide information that relates to the second broadcast program is searched for a predetermined non-extension keyword indicating no extension/delay of the second broadcast program, and the broadcast program in which the non-extension keyword has been found is ~~not searched~~ excluded from the search for the extension keyword.

7. (Currently Amended) A recording programming apparatus as recited in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the extension keyword ~~means device~~ performs a search on the electronic program-guide that relates to the second broadcast program, for a genre to which the second broadcast program belongs, and ~~if in response to detecting a genre found which~~ does not coincide with one of predetermined genres, then the extension keyword search ~~means device does not~~ excludes a broadcast program in which the detected genre has been found from the search for the extension keyword.

8. (Currently Amended) A recording programming method of setting the recording start time and the end time, and programming of recording a given program in the broadcast programs, comprising:

utilizing a processor to perform the following steps of:
acquire ing electronic program guide information;

____search~~_ing~~ electronic program guide information that relates to a second broadcast program to be broadcast on the same channel and the same date as and prior to the first program to be programmed, for a predetermined extension keyword indicating a broadcast program extension or ~~/~~delay; and

____delay~~_ing~~ a recording end time of the first broadcast program in response to detection, if as a result of search in the step of searching for the extension keyword, of a broadcast program in which the extension keyword has been found ~~is present~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A recording programming method as recited in claim 8, further comprising utilizing the processor to set a step of setting an extension time period.

10. (Currently Amended) A recording programming method as recited in claim 8, ~~characterized in that if~~ wherein, in response to detection of a broadcast program in which the extension keyword has been found, ~~is present, in the step of delaying the recording end time~~ is delayed by:

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____computing a total extension time period obtained by multiplying by the predetermined extension time period the number of the broadcast programs in which the extension keyword has been found, ~~is computed, then and~~

____delaying the first broadcast program recording end time ~~is delayed by only~~ the total extension time period.

11. (Currently Amended) A recording programming method as recited in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the extension keyword includes a phrase ~~greater than/equal to the~~ having at least a predetermined number of ~~predetermined~~ consecutive alphabetic characters.

12. (Currently Amended) A recording programming method as recited in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the extension keyword is a combination of two or more non-consecutive phrases, and the spacing between phrases forming the combination falls within a predetermined number of alphabetic characters.

13. (Currently Amended) A recording programming method as recited in claim 8, ~~characterized in that in the step of searching for the extension keyword, wherein~~ the electronic program guide information that relates to the second broadcast program is searched for the predetermined non-extension keyword indicating that the second broadcast program is not extended/delayed, and a program in which the non-extension keyword has been found is ~~not searched~~ excluded from the search for the extension keyword.

14. (Currently Amended) A recording programming method as recited in claim 8, ~~characterized in that in the step of searching for the extension keyword, wherein~~ the electronic program guide information that relates to the second broadcast program is found for the genre to which the second broadcast program belongs, and ~~if in response to detection of a genre found which does not coincide with one of predetermined genres, then a~~ broadcast program in which the detected genre has been found is excluded from the search for the extension keyword ~~is not performed~~.